

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JSWOLF

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:DMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 172001

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INNO USUN, JULY 22, FROM  
SEOUL RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE S E C R E T SEOUL 5502

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS

SUBJECT: COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) SEOUL 5357 (B) SEOUL 5501

1. FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO CALLED IN AMBASSADOR JULY 21  
TO HAND OVER MEMORANDUM CONCERNING ROKG POSITION ON  
POST-UNC COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS. (TEXT OF MEMORANDUM  
CONTAINED REF B).

2. MEMORANDUM MAKES FOLLOWING THREE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS:

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(A) THAT CINC OF COMBINED COMMAND SHOULD BE US

GENERAL AS LONG AS "PRESENT LEVEL" OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA IS MAINTAINED.

(B) THAT COMBINED COMMAND SHOULD HAVE OPCON OVER BOTH ROK AND US UNITS.

(C) THAT A ROK/US "MILITARY COMMITTEE" SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS AN ORGAN SUPERIOR TO COMBINED COMMAND.

3. FONMIN EXPLAINED THAT, FROM ROKG VIEWPOINT, IT IMPORTANT MAINTAIN APPEARANCES OF EQUALITY BETWEEN US AND ROK. THIS FACTOR ENTERS INTO ROKG POSITION ON ALL THREE POINTS. SECOND CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE STRUCTURE AS CLOSELY PARALLEL AS POSSIBLE TO NATO.

4. DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT LEVEL OF US TROOP PRESENCE FLUCTUATES EVEN UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THEREFORE "PRESENT LEVEL" COULD NOT BE USED AS CONDITION FOR HAVING US OFFICER AS CINC OF COMBINED COMMAND. KIM REPLIED THAT, IN FACT, REQUIRED TROOP LEVEL COULD BE WORKED OUT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT, AND ROKG WAS NOT RIGID ON EXACT LANGUAGE.

5. WITH REGARD TO OPERATIONAL CONTROL, AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED THAT US TROOPS BE UNDER US COMMANDER. KIM REPLIED THAT ROKG RECOGNIZED NEED TAKE ACCOUNT OF US CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, BUT IT DIFFICULT

TO ACCEPT A COMBINED COMMAND WITH US COMMANDER HAVING OPCON OVER ONLY KOREAN FORCES.

6. CONCERNING ROK/US MILITARY COMMITTEE, KIM SAID THAT ROKG WOULD ENVISION THIS AS BODY SETTING BROAD POLICY AND STRATEGY SIMILAR TO NATO MILITARY  
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COMMITTEE.

7. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO WASHINGTON. HE BELIEVED AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON SUBSTANCE OF POINTS AT ISSUE. UNC AND MND REPRESENTATIVES COULD THEN BEGIN TO WORK ON DETAILS.

8. COMMENT: GENERALLY TENTATIVE WORDING OF MEMORANDUM  
AND KIM'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT ROKG POSITION HAS  
CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY. BELIEVE DIFFERENCES ON  
CRITERIA FOR RETAINING US COMMANDER AND ON MILITARY  
COMMITTEE ARE LARGELY MATTER OF FORM RATHER THAN  
SUBSTANCE. CRITICAL ISSUE IS COMBINED COMM-  
ANDER'S OPCON OVER US FORCES. BELIEVE ROKG WOULD  
ACCEPT NATO FORMULA PLACING AIR DEFENSE UNDER COMBINED  
COMMANDER'S OPCON, WHICH IS IN FACT CURRENT  
PRACTICE HERE. FORMULA WOULD REQUIRE ROKG  
RECOGNITION OF NEED TO CONFORM TO US CONSTI-  
TUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS. IN GENERAL, WOULD SUGGEST  
SOME MOVEMENT IN US POSITION ON POINTS AT ISSUE  
TO SATISFY, AT LEAST FOR FORM'S SAKE, EVIDENTLY  
KEY ROKG DESIRE TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF MORE  
EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN CONMAND SAT-UP. SNEIDER UNQUOTE.  
KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, US, UNGA, UNC, (KIM TONG-CHO)  
**To:** CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
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